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C. C. GOODWIN, - - - - - Editor.
J. T. GOODWIN, - - - - - Manager.

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THE SOMNAMBULIST.

The first page of Mr. Bryan's last week's Commoner is devoted to a discussion of "Democracy vs. Plutocracy—the Election's lesson." The somnambulist walks with wide-open eyes that see not, with ears that are deaf to near-by sounds.

Just now, Mr. Bryan is the nation's political somnambulist. Until he wakes his words are little comfort to his beaten party; they are not words of advice which his party should heed. The title of his article is a misnomer. The campaign was not a contest between Democracy and Plutocracy. The President was elected by the vote of the wage-earners of the country. They were not coerced by wealth. The fact that 5,300,000 of them were at work at generous wages; that on the same appeal that was made to them this year, they twelve years ago decided to make a change and that a year later 2,000,000 of them were stranded, desolate and despairing, determined them not to repeat an experiment so fraught with danger.

Mr. Bryan's anathemas against the trusts are pointless for many reasons. First, no Democrat has yet proposed any measure to curb and control the trusts; second, when the Democracy was given the Executive and Legislative machinery of the Government on a platform denouncing trusts, for four years it never raised a hand against them; third, the trusts supplied the money and promises this year that nominated Judge Parker; fourth, that a man has a vast amount of money is not in itself a certain sign that the man stole it; fifth, that it is perfectly natural that men of means should combine their capital, that a better interest may be obtained; sixth, that the great moving power of this world is money; that as it leans upon labor to carry through great enterprises, or to carry on great industries, so labor leans upon capital for employment and hence the interests of capital and labor are interdependent and so interwoven that when capital is wantonly struck down, the blow really falls upon labor—capital is halted for the time, labor is totally bereft.

When combines are formed in restraint of trade or to abnormally advance prices to consumers, that is a different matter and in such cases the Government should interpose so soon as the needed proof can be secured to make a conviction reasonably certain.

All parties know that, but the Republican party is the only one that has ever made any attempt

to check the wrong, and the difficulties surrounding the question are very great, for the direct remedies that would avail would pretty nearly destroy every labor union in the country.

Mr. Bryan says that Judge Parker grew in the estimation of the country from the day he was nominated. If he did he grew like a sugar beet: he grew down. The election returns show that even the tigers of Tammany as a whole voted against him.

Mr. Bryan still clings to his old idea that the protective tariff must be destroyed. That will defeat his party every time that it may be tried for a generation to come, for the working men who have places and generous wages because of the tariff, will be numerous enough to carry every election. He insists that the silver question must be an issue and that is utter foolishness. A bill, leaving gold the standard, but fixing a price for silver in considering trade with silver countries may, by careful handling, become a law, but nothing beyond that will receive any favor in the states where most of the votes are cast. Mr. Bryan still clings to his income tax idea, which we believe is right but absolutely ineffectual at present.

The good book says something about there being a time to weep and a time to laugh. Well, there are times for politicians to talk and times for them to keep still. This is one of the times for Mr. Bryan to keep still. He received a knock-out in the election. He cannot talk coherently yet, hence he ought to keep still. His party would be dead right now if it were not the Democratic party. As it is, it will require some exceedingly bright brains to resuscitate it, to ever again make it a commanding potentiality.

THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL.

The Mayor and City Council are responsible for the business of the city. Everything is subordinate to their approval or disapproval. Every body who has built a house for years past in the city has been obliged to have his grades established by the City Engineer. They have built their homes, laid out their grounds and planted their trees with an eye to the grades. And now comes an engineer who performs very much as did the first bull who got into the first china shop the first time. The bull made a reputation for himself but it has not been a very enviable one; neither is that which this new engineer is making. It looks as though his purpose was to bankrupt the property owners; to fill the sidewalks with quagmires and to generally change the face of nature so that old residents will not know the way to their homes on cloudy nights.

Science is a great thing, but when it is reduced to points so exact that common sense and a reasonable consideration for the rights and the property interests of property owners are all ignored, then it is time for the superior authorities of the city, in the city's interest, to take a hand. If a man falls through a hole in the sidewalk and breaks a leg, the city has to pay the damages. If the City Engineer makes the hole the obligation of the city ought to be all the greater.

We suggest that the Mayor and Council take a day off, and keeping in mind that the richest property owners have no disposition to be held up by city officers, and that the less prosperous prop-

erty owners cannot afford to be held up, as business men to see if something cannot be done to arrest the present raids of the City Engineer. From the first, the intention has seemed to be to reduce the streets and sidewalks of the city to railroad grades without regard to convenience, the

sense, the mutilation of the landscape or the loss of property owners; no matter if the home

man on one side of a street is left in the air

at he needs a ladder to reach his basement,

or a resident on the other side has to enter his

by a ladder from the sidewalk into his

chill while not the slightest consideration has

been for the long rows of beautiful trees

which it was the work of half a lifetime to create.

It is time that the shameful foolishness should be

stopped. Mr. Robert Grant's home on Brigham

street is one of the fine homes in the city, but the

sidewalks on both fronts of it are cisterns which

might make a swimming tank in wet weather.

The same phenomenon can be seen across the

street east of Mr. Nelden's home. All down Brigh-

am street the north side of the street is just

enough higher than the south side, to insure a mud

hole all down the south side when the dust is

blowing on the north side. That was done under

the old regime. It seems to be worse now, and the

people naturally are wild. It is surely time for

the Mayor and Council to move in the matter.

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KUROKI.

It is asserted and denied that Major-General

Kuroki is dead. If it proves true that the great

General was killed in battle, it will be a vast loss

to Japan. What makes it probable is that in all

the accounts from the war for a month past his

name has not been mentioned. It was Kuroki's

army that confronted the Russians on the Yalu

river last April, and for the first time in history

a half-Mongolian army rolled back a European

army.

It was Kuroki who directed everything, and

not one mistake or error of judgment was marked

up against him.

The Russians went into that fight dreaming of

an easy victory. They found science met with a

higher science, valor by a more exalted valor, and

the remnant of the Muscovites were glad to get

away with their lives. The first battle was but a

sample of all those that followed.

When Kuropatkin made his stand at Liao

Yang, there was a week's delay and an awful

slaughter of men, but the result was the same—

the Russ fled. The Japanese did not pursue. It

was said they were exhausted, but we suspect

that it was there their great commander fell, and

while no advance was ordered, still every precau-

tion was taken against surprise in case the Rus-

sians turned and assumed the offensive. One can

imagine that the death of such an officer would be

most depressing on such an army as the Japa-

nese. He had guided them until they believed

that under him they were invincible; his death

must have seemed to his followers what Napo-

leon's death would have been when the sun went

down on Austerlitz or Marengo. Napoleon had

many superb generals, but there was only one Na-

poleon. Japan has many magnificent Generals,

but by common consent all looked up and trusted

in Kuroki with absolute confidence.

The pictures of most of the Japanese officers